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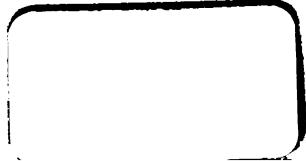
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
OF  
IRISH SCENERY;  
WITH  
DESCRIPTIVE LETTERPRESS.

J. HUDSON, Photo.

KILLARNEY.

"Ever changing, ever new, when will the landscape tire the view?  
The fountain's fall, the river's flow, the woody valley warm and low,  
The windy summit, wild and high, roughly rushing through the sky,  
The pleasant seat, the ruined tower, the naked rock, the shady bower,  
The town and village, dome and farm—  
Each gives to each a double charm."

DUBLIN:  
ANDREW DUTHIE, 85 MIDDLE ABBEY STREET.

1866.





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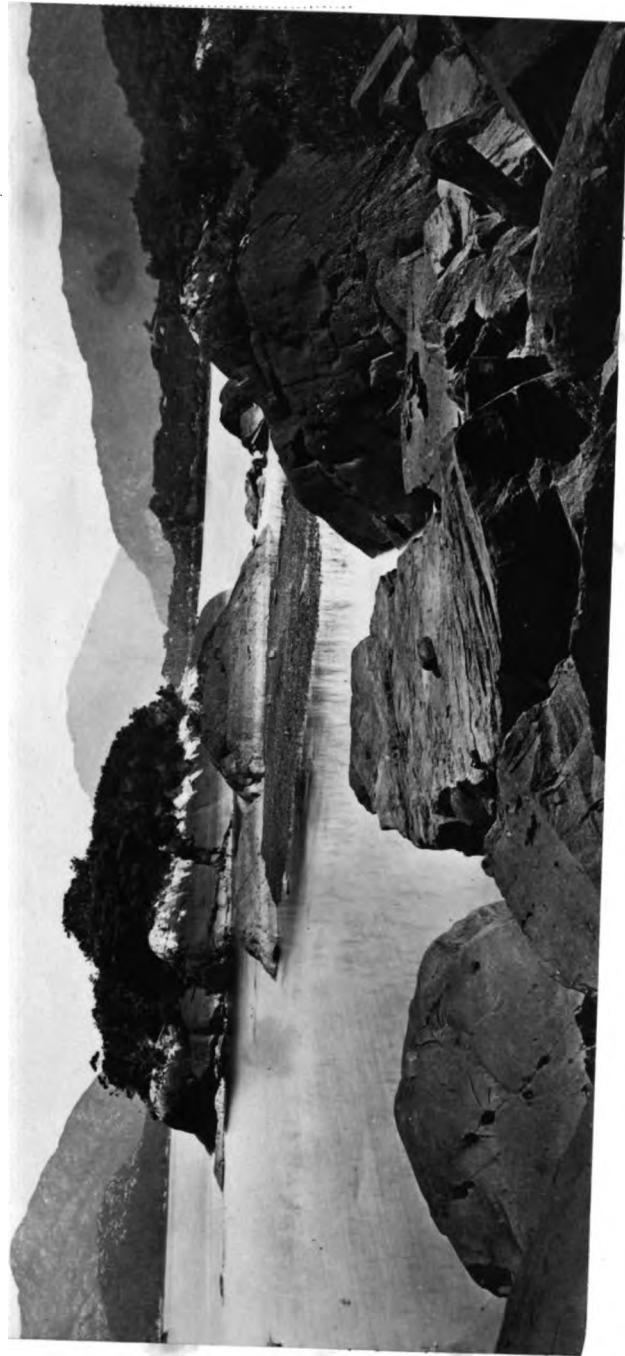
## INTRODUCTION.

THE charms of Killarney consist in the varied graces of foliage, the grandeur of encompassing mountains, the number of green and rocky islands, the singular, fantastic character of the island rocks, the delicate elegance of the shore, the perpetual occurrence of bays, and in the wonderful variety produced by the combination of these, which, together, give to the scenery a character inconceivably fascinating; such as the pen and pencil are utterly incompetent to describe. This variety of Landscape and Scenery makes Killarney stand alone in its attractions; and the changes of sky and cloud, sunshine and shadow, alter the picture from day to day, so that the views seen to-day differ from the same spots seen to-morrow, while all the riches of foliage and colour are seen in endless combination.

"In this tract  
How long so'er the wanderer roves, each step  
Shall wake fresh beauties, each short point present  
A different picture, new, and yet the same."

The stranger will find in these Views of Killarney an introduction to its beauties; for the Photographer holds his sheet for Nature to write herself upon it, and thus the active eye may realise the scenes before they have been visited, and may be led to view them; while the Tourists to Killarney will find in these Pictures a means of recalling the pleasure derived from personal study of these and other scenes of beauty in their immediate neighbourhood.





THE UPPER LAKE.



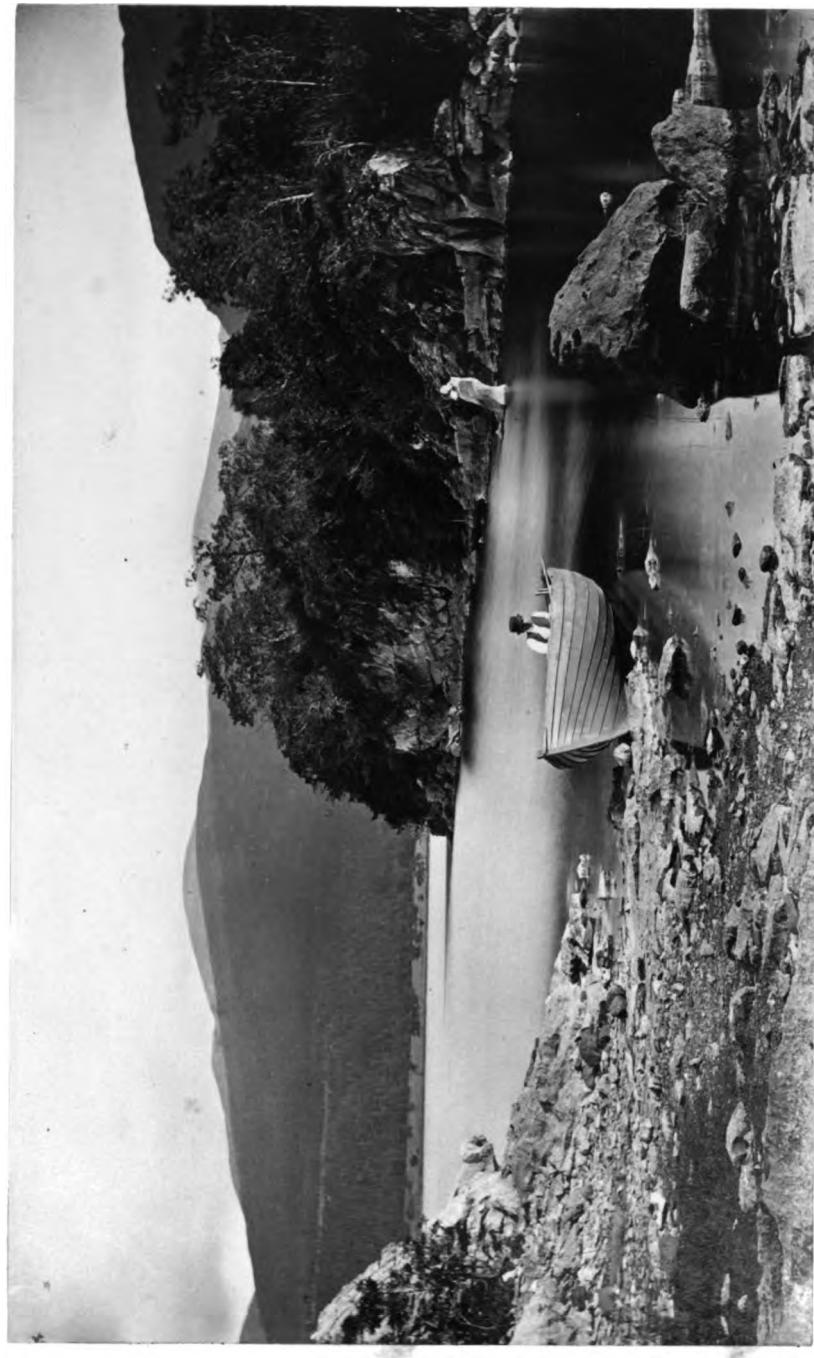
## THE UPPER LAKE.

THE wild grandeur of the Upper Lake strikes the observer on first beholding it with feelings of awe and admiration. Perfectly distinct in the character of its romantic scenery from that of the Tore and Lower Lake, it combines many of the softer beauties of wood and water with all the stern sublimity of mountain scenery in a surpassing degree—every variety of landscape that can delight the eye or gratify the imagination. Embosomed amidst majestic mountains, whose fantastic summits seem to pierce the sky, the Lake appears to be land-locked. On the south side lie the Derricunneebeg Mountain ranges; and on the left the lofty Reeks, the Purple Mountains, and the Gap of Dunloc are seen in the distance.

This mountain cincture imparts to the Upper Lake an air of solitary beauty and intensity of interest not to be found to the same extent in either of the other Lakes. Nature here sits in lonely and silent grandeur amidst her primeval mountains; solitude, stillness the most profound, rest upon the woody shores and the tranquil Lake, filling and overpowering the mind with a deep sense of the perfect seclusion of the scene. At various points bright mountain streams may be seen pouring down the glens and deep ravines—now leaping from rock to rock, and flashing like living silver in the broad sunlight; now glittering in the shade of the dark foliage, till they are lost in the shining waters of the broad Lake. A number of islets, of the most picturesque form, are scattered over its surface; some masses of naked rock, others, on the contrary, redundant of vegetation, producing river shrubs and plants in the wildest profusion.



TORG OR MIDDLE LAKE.





## TORC LAKE AND MANGERTON.

TORC LAKE, or, as it is sometimes called, the Middle, is bounded on the north by the peninsula of Muckross, and on the south by Tore, a beautiful conical hill, standing out in bold relief to the loftier outlines of Mangerton. Torc Lake, which is reached after passing through the channel from the Upper Lake, is not at the first glance so attractive as either of the other lakes ; but if the traveller does not coast round it, he will lose much. It has numerous tiny bays and coves, beautiful in form, and offering to the eye of the painter the most exquisite combination of colour, arising from the union of rock and foliage, and from the infinite variety of ferns, lichens, and mosses that overspread its banks. Considering the height—2,756 feet above the level of the sea, and 2,691 above the lake—Mangerton is very easy of ascent. In going up we pass Drumrourke hill, from whence the best view of the Lower Lake and the scenery immediately connected with it is obtained. From this level the Lake scenery collectively is seen in by far the best points of view, and here we have the advantage of the magnificent sylvan foreground of Muckross. From the summit of Mangerton a splendid view is obtained in addition to the Lakes and all the mountains and country lying immediately around ; there the unaided eye can readily embrace on the south the estuary of the Kenmare river, insinuating itself among the lower hills which lie around it and stretch from the base of Mangerton to the ocean ; westward, Castlemaine bay and the great extent of intervening hilly country, stretching afar summit over summit ; northward, the eye ranges over a vast tract of unreclaimed country ; and eastward is exhibited that high chain of mountains which extends from Killarney to Mallow.





THE LOWER LXXE.



## THE LOWER LAKE.

THE Lower and Middle Lakes are, strictly speaking, one sheet of water. They are bounded on the south by Torc Mountains, which are backed by Mangerton; on the west by the Tomies and Glena (undefined divisions of the Purple Mountains); and on the east and north by flat shores, adorned with the seats and villas which constitute the environs of Killarney. Ross Castle is the principal place of embarkation on the Lower Lake.

The Lower Lake is five miles in length, and three in greatest width; and of the thirty islands with which the bosom of the Upper Lake is studded, and which have all received names, there are only four or five worthy of any consideration, except as accessories to the splendid picture which nature here spreads before us. Ross Island, in extent, claims superiority, but in beauty it cannot compare with

“—— Innisfallen, of the islands queen.”

Ross Island contains 158 acres, and forms part of the beautiful demesne of Earl Kenmare, from which it is separated by a narrow stream, crossed by a bridge. Close to it is the principal harbour of the Lower Lake.

The character of the whole scenery of the Lower Lake is totally different from that of the Middle and Upper Lakes; it is distinguished for its elegance and beauty, being shaded with rocks and islands covered with a variety of evergreens. The Upper Lake, on the contrary, is remarkable for its wild sublimity and grandeur; while the Middle Lake combines, in a great degree, the characteristics of the other two.





OLD WEIR BRIDGE.



## OLD WEIR BRIDGE.

OLD Weir Bridge is an antiquated structure of two arches, only one of which affords a passage for boats, which are carried by the current with great swiftness without an effort of the rowers; in descending the stream during flood, and shooting through the bridge, coolness and dexterity are no less requisite than vigour and perseverance were during the ascent.

The most interesting object connected with this portion of the Killarney scenery is the Eagle's Nest, a high, prominent, pyramidal rock, rising upwards of 1,000 feet above the river, and which stands about midway between Dinis Island and the Upper Lake. Taken in connexion with the surrounding mountains, the rock is not a very striking object, but when viewed from the water, where it is seen from its base to its summit, its height and form are calculated to excite our wonder and admiration; its base is covered with wood, and shrubs appear scattered along it up to the very apex of the pyramid. It is from this rock that the loud reverberating echoes are awakened in so remarkable a manner. It was formerly a frequent practice with parties to bring a small cannon to fire off from the bank on the opposite side of the river; now they are generally content with the sounds produced by the bugle. Our imagination endues the mountains with life; and to their attributes of magnitude and silence and solitude we for a moment add the power of listening, and a voice. Between the Eagle's Nest and Colman's Leap a succession of picturesque rocks and little craggy promontories are passed, and the sail is otherwise rendered interesting by the change of scenery produced by every fresh winding of the river.





THE MEETING OF THE WATERS.



## THE MEETING OF THE WATERS.

A LITTLE below Old Weir Bridge is a sequestered spot of great beauty, called the "Meeting of the Waters." Here the river, which carries along the surplus waters of the Upper Lake, divides before it terminates its course: one of the branches flows peacefully into the Bay of Glena, in the Lower Lake; the other, forcing itself through a rocky channel, issues with great impetuosity into the Middle Lake, under the woods of Dinis Island.

The Island of Dinis affords a greater diversity of prospect than any place of the same extent on the confines of Killarney. On passing round its shores, Tore Lake, the Bay of Glena, and the rapid river from the Upper Lake, rushing in a torrent under Old Weir Bridge, successively open to view. The tumultuous motion of the stream amongst the rocks and its roaring sounds, echoed through the woods of the island, add to the wild charms of the scene, and give coolness and freshness to the shores, which render them, during the summer season, a most delightful retreat. The Islands of Brickeen and Dinis differ from the peninsula, in being less elevated above the water. Both are thickly covered with trees, above the tops of which are seen, at a short distance, the hanging forests of Glena; the whole forming a sylvan scene seldom equalled in richness and variety. Tore Lake may be entered by the passage under Brickeen Bridge, or by coasting round Dinis Island, and following the course of the river, which flows into Glena bay. After surveying the beauties of its islands and exploring the windings of its shores, new and romantic passages open to view, which lead to other and still more inviting than those which have already engaged the delighted eye.





VIEW FROM INNISFALLEN.



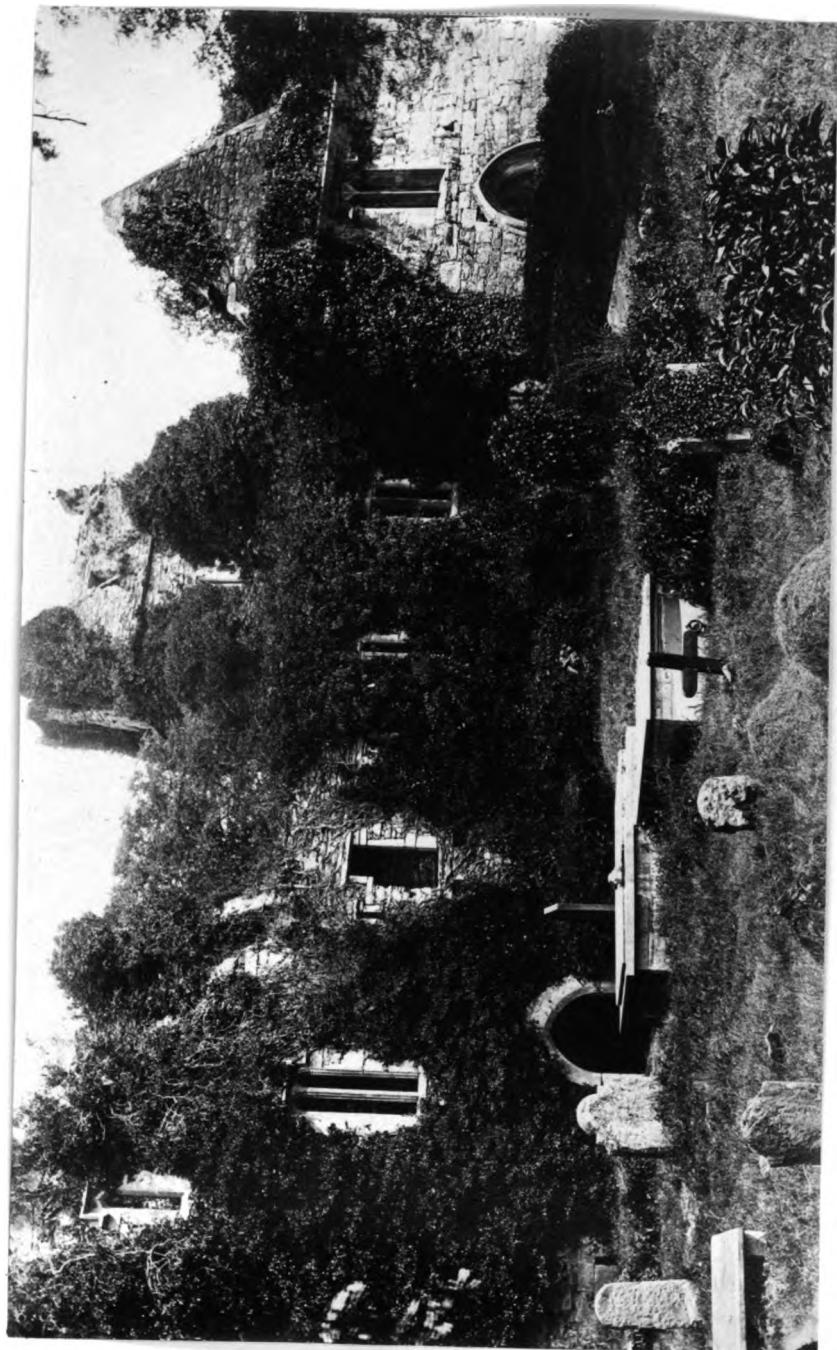
## VIEW FROM INNISFALLEN.

THE Island of Innisfallen is in extent about twenty-one acres, and contains a small banqueting-house and the ruins of an abbey, founded in 600 ; the former being a restored part of an ancient oratory. There the Annals of Innisfallen were composed. These Annals, which were written and preserved in the abbey, are amongst the most prized of early historic materials. Several copies are still extant. The original, the first portion of which is written over 600 and the continuation over 500 years, is now preserved in the Bodleian Library.

Innisfallen receives from all travellers the distinction of being the most beautiful, as it is certainly the most interesting, of the Lake Islands. Its peculiar beauty is derived from the alternating hill and dale within its small circle, the elegance of its miniature creeks and harbours, and the extraordinary size as well as luxuriance of its evergreens.

From the paths which meander along the diversified outline of this interesting island the most lovely and ever-changing views are obtained, by the varied surface, and the alternation of the forest glades and thickets. From these delightful openings the lofty peaks of the distant Tomies and Glena, with the misty summits of the Purple Mountains—which form the southern boundary of this lake—are distinctly seen ; while between the dark stems of the trees glimpses are caught of the sparkling waters below and the more distant sunny shores. From its situation, variety, beauty of surface, and its magnificent ample trees and shrubs, this Island is one of the most interesting of the numerous objects which this region of wonder and beauty affords.





MUCKROSS ABBEY.



## MUCKROSS ABBEY.

THE enchanting ruin of Muckross Abbey consists of part of the convent and church; it is remarkable for its preservation, seclusion, beauty of situation, and accompanying venerable trees, which render it one of the most interesting abbey ruins in Ireland.

The entire length of the church is about 100 feet, its breadth 24. In the centre of the still beautiful cloister an aged yew tree lifts its massive trunk of ten feet in girth thirteen feet high, throws its fantastic arms across the broken parapet, and by its sombre shade adds to the prevailing gloominess of the scene. The dormitories, the kitchen, the refectory, the cellars, the infirmary, and other chambers are in a state of comparative preservation; the upper rooms are unroofed, and the coarse grass grows abundantly among them. The cloister, which consists of twenty-two arches—ten of them semi-circular and twelve pointed—is the best preserved portion of the Abbey. Several of the Kings of Munster are said to be buried here, and in the centre of the choir is the vault of the Mac Carthys, princes of Desmond, marked by a rudely-sculptured monument.

The demesne of Muckross Abbey, the beautiful seat of Mr. Herbert, embraces the peninsula which separates the Lower and Middle Lakes, stretches also along the southern shores of the latter, and includes Torc Mountain and Waterfall. A fine mansion, in the Elizabethan style, has been erected, and other corresponding improvements effected. This seat possesses such natural capabilities, such extent and combinations of wood, water, and mountain, as are no where else to be met with.





ROSS CASTLE.



## ROSS CASTLE.

ROSS Island, or rather peninsula, contains about 158 statute acres, and is connected with the mainland by a bridge and causeway. In summer the morass over which the bridge and causeway are formed is dry, but in winter Ross is isolated. On this island, near the shore, stands Ross Castle, which held out so obstinately, under Lord Muskery, in 1652 against the English, commanded by General Ludlow. The surrender of this Castle terminated hostilities in Munster, and induced about 5,000 Irish to lay down their arms. The conditions of the treaty of Ross Castle were accurately fulfilled by Parliament, by which Lord Broghill was granted £1,000 yearly out of the estates of Lord Muskery.

The Castle was built by the family of O'Donohoe Ross, whose successors resided here for nearly three centuries afterwards. Many wild legends are related of this family, the most remarkable attributing to one of its chiefs a septennial return to earth, when he drives his milk-white steeds over the lake at sunrise; his castle being restored by enchantment as he reaches it, but only until the sun appears above the woods.

Ross Castle is now an important ruin. Standing upon a rock, it consists of a lofty square building, with embattled parapets, formerly enclosed by a curtain wall, having round flankers at each corner, the ruins of which are yet visible. The interior possesses some well-proportioned apartments, and from the battlements may be had most extensive views of the Lower Lake, Mangerton, Tore, Glena, the Tomies, the Reeks, and all the surrounding scenery.





TORC CASCADE.



## TORC CASCADE.

THIS beautiful Cascade is in a rocky chasm lying between Torc Mountain and Mangerton, and is supplied by two streams issuing from the sides of the latter, which unite a little above the Fall. The larger of these streams carries down the surplus waters from the Devil's Punch Bowl, a small oval-shaped lough, the area of which is about two acres, and its level above the Lower Lake 1,140 feet. The cataract falls over a broken ledge of rocks sixty feet in height, and after heavy falls of rain, or during the winter months, when the volume of water is great, the effect is very striking. Though even in the most arid seasons it is beautiful ; the white foam breaking over high rocks, casting the spray to inconceivable distances—rushing and brawling along its course, scattering its influences among the long green ferns, and giving such prodigious vigour to the wild vegetation which it nourishes. The water descends in a broad sheet, the first fall being of considerable width ; the passage is then narrow, and another fall occurs ; then follow a succession of falls, all rushing and foaming against the mountain sides ; and, indeed, almost from the base of the Great Fall until it reaches Torc Lake, the river goes leaping from one rock to another. From the basin at the bottom of the Fall it hurries impetuously along its rocky bed, and after a rapid course of half a mile, it minglest its waters with those of the Lake. The steep sides of the chasm are richly clothed with fir and pine trees of various kinds, which, in common with all the trees of a similar growth around, were planted by the late Colonel Herbert. From its proximity to the road and to Muckross, this romantically-situated and highly picturesque Cascade is much visited and universally admired.





O'SULLIVAN'S CASCADE.



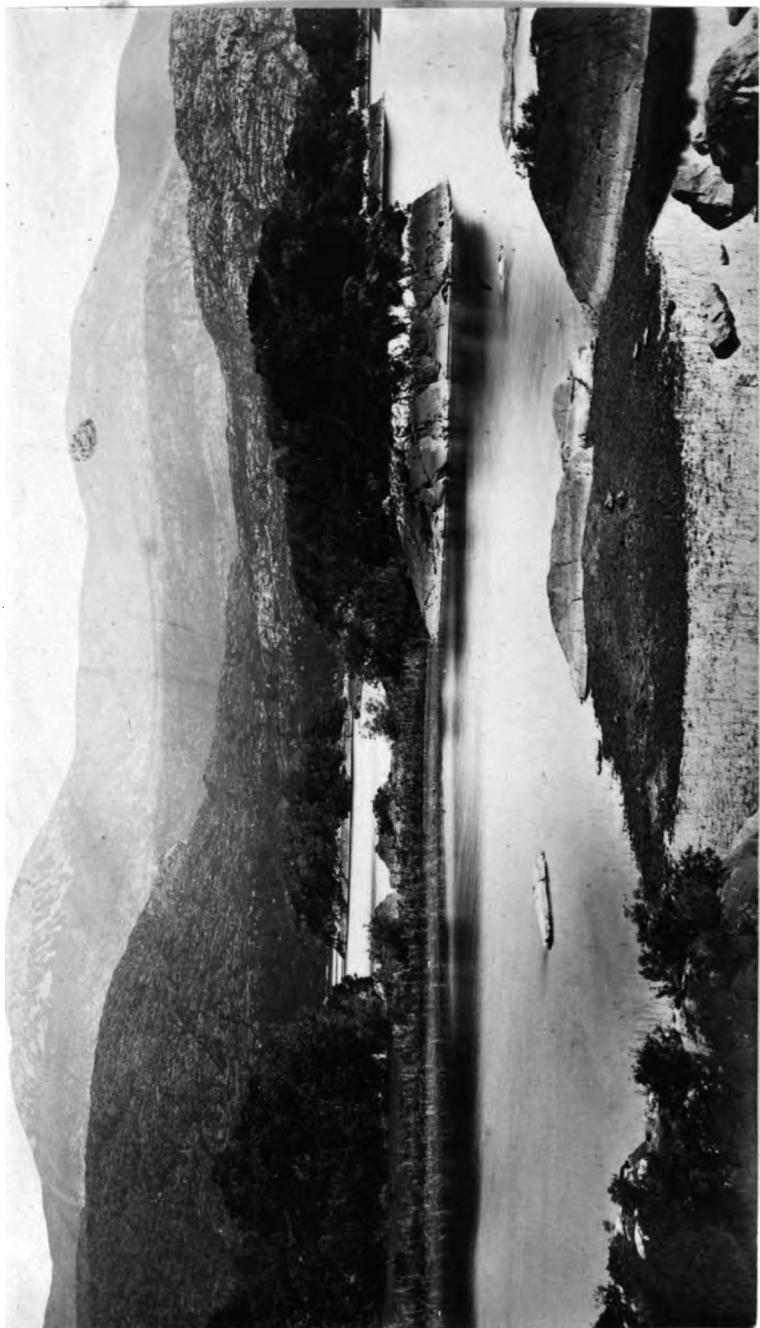
## O'SULLIVAN'S CASCADE.

IN sailing across from Innisfallen to the Tomies, a little bay is perceived, where there is a small quay of rude workmanship, completely characteristic of the scene; on landing, a rugged pathway along the banks of a mountain rivulet, and winding through an almost impenetrable forest, conducts to the waterfall called O'Sullivan's Cascade. The noise of the stream falling from rock to rock kindles expectation, and the waterfall, which retires far into the deep bosom of a wooded glen, and of which you cannot even catch a glimpse, bursts at once upon the view.

“The ungovernable torrent, loud and strong,  
In thunder roaring as it dashed along,  
Leaping with speed infuriate wildly down  
Where rocks grotesque in massive grandeur frown.  
With ocean strength it rushes on its way,  
'Mid hoary clouds of everlasting spray,  
To its rock basin, with tremendous roar,  
The brown hills trembling round the wizard shore.”

The stream throws itself over the face of a perpendicular rock into a basin concealed from the spectator's view; from this basin it forces itself impetuously between two rocks into another reservoir. This second reservoir is of considerable height, but the third is the most striking in appearance. Each of these basins being large, there appears a space of several yards between the three falls. Beneath a projecting rock overhanging the lowest basin is a grotto, with a seat, rudely cut in the rock. From this little grotto the view of the Cascade is particularly beautiful and striking: it appears a continued flight of three unequally elevated foaming stages. The recess is encompassed by rocks, and overshadowed by an arch of foliage so thick as to intercept the admission of light. The height of the Cascade is about seventy feet, and the body of water is considerable.





THE PURPLE MOUNTAINS.



## THE PURPLE MOUNTAIN.

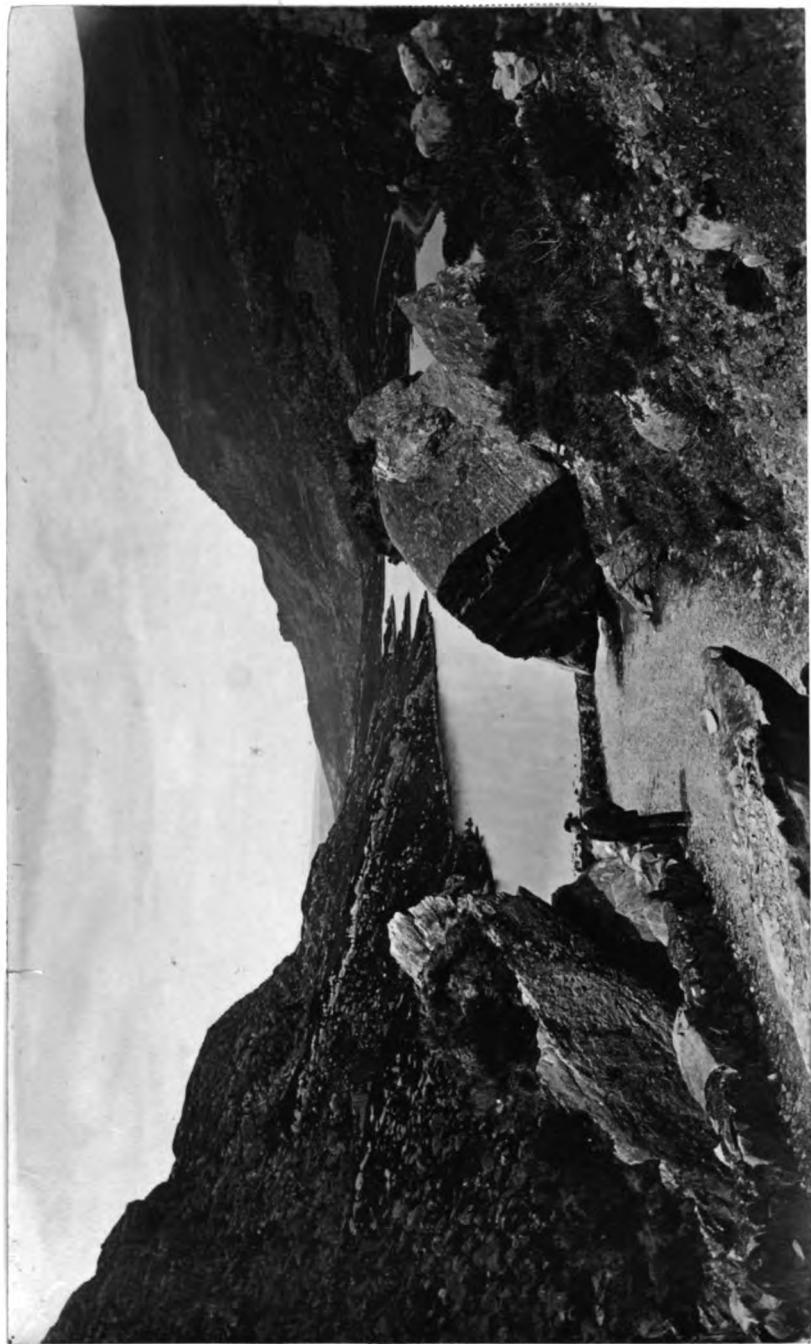
THE Purple Mountain, which lies between the Lower and Upper Lake, is so denominated from the purple hue it possesses seen from almost any quarter and under any modification of light; it is 2,739 feet above the level of the sea. Although one of our commonest heaths—the *Erica cinerea*—covers a considerable extent of the mountain side, and when in flower no doubt augments the purple hue, yet the permanent colour of the mountain arises from the rock of which it is composed. The charms of landscape are, in almost every instance, heightened by the glowing tints and by the lengthened shadows which are diffused over the face of nature by the setting sun; but the scenes of the Lower Lake, and especially those which are commanded from the hills, appear to so much greater advantage

“When many-colouring eve  
Sinks behind the purple woods and hills,”

that the object which had been a source of delight in their sombre livery can with difficulty be recognised for the same in the splendor of their new attire. Before the sun has ascended to his meridian height, the mountains bordering upon the Lower Lake are left in shadow; their surface then appears tame and unvaried, and their summits, if it be in clear weather, form a hard outline against the azure sky; but as the day declines, the sun imperceptibly glides across the line of the great chain, and darts his rays on that side of the mountain which lies next to the Lake. All their bold irregularities are then revealed—their protruding rocks, their deep glens, and the Lake, by the long gleams which pass athwart its peaceful waves, is illuminated amidst its dark and wooded islands.



THE GAP OF DUNLOE.





## THE GAP OF DUNLOE.

THE celebrated Gap of Dunloe is a deep, rugged, narrow ravine, of about three miles in length; the cliffs which limit it rising in many places from the bottom to a great height, presenting many wild and striking combinations, and exhibiting vast masses of rock, heaved up and scattered about in the wildest disorder. Among the dissevered rocks, on the ledges and in the crevices of the cliffs, a few trees and shrubs have attained to a considerable size; these, together with the ivy, bramble, brier, and other climbing plants, tend to relieve the sterility of the arid surface, and at the same time contribute to the picturesque. On the right, the Reeks, with their grandmaster, Carran Tuel, look down upon the dark glen; while on the left, Tomies and the Purple Mountain

“Lift to the clouds their craggy heads on high,  
Crowned with the tiaras fashioned in the sky.”

Limited though the Gap of Dunloe comparatively be in its depth and extent, the consideration of the wonderful changes that have taken place on the earth’s surface cannot fail to excite emotions of wonder and sublimity.

There are four small, deep, still lakes in the valley of the Gap, whose dark, sullen waters tend to augment the wild character of the scene. These tiny loughs are supplied by the numerous rills that flow down and furrow the western side of the Purple Mountain, and uniting below the Black Lough, the lowest of these mountain turns, flow down to the Laune under the name of the Leo; from which the castle that was built on its confluence, and the dark, gloomy Gap, take their name. In various parts of the Gap the echoes, even from the moderate sounding of the human voice, are clear and remarkable.



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